

Virgilio Kock

Virgilio Kock (Aruba 29 November 1939 - Aruba 6 March 2016)

Many know his work and all the good things he has done in his life. A lot of people knew him as the architect who won the coveted "Architecture d' Ajourd'hui" architecture prize, the highest prize in architecture in the world for the design of Emanuel church in San Nicolas donating his prize money to the church. Others, know him from his political career as a senator of Aruba twice, first as deputy for Aruba in the senate of the Netherlands Antilles and later senator at the parliament of Aruba. The fact is he was a brilliant mind with the capacity to think Big, persevere, succeed and excel in far greater things than what was expected of a small island genius from the outskirts of Santa Cruz.

In 1956 he had the privilege join first group of "beursalen" (scholarship students) to study at the boarding school of Canisius College in Nijmegen in the Netherlands where he achieved a HBS degree. Many of his class mates went into politics and became politicians who have helped change the world for a better place. One of his class mates and friends, which he shared his idealism with, was former prime minister to the Netherlands, Mr. Ruud Lubbers. He went on to the high technical school (HTS) in Den Bosch succeeding at specialising in architecture.

Mr Kock returned to Aruba in 1963 and from that moment on he was an employee at D.O.W., the Department of Public Works. On Aruba mr Kock got his pedagogic degree. He was very active for culture as a member of the board of the Stichting Schouwburg Aruba.

Virgilio Kock Build many buildings for his country in his time at D.O.W. and in his free time. Among these Projects, The pedestal for the statue of Juancho Yausquin q.e.p.d, the Plaza Libertador Betico Croes stage, Harbourtown Hotel and Marina, Harbourtown Casino and Harbourtown market recently know as the Renaissance Seaport Mall, Casino and Renaissance suites. This innovative project was a statement in its time for Aruba because it was the first to be build below sea level, making use of his state of the art technical expertise to drain the sea and raise it's foundation.

In 1967 Senator Kock entered politics. He was a member of the Partido Patriotico Aruba (PPA). In the elections for the Eilandsraad of Aruba in 1967, mr Kock achieved a place on the list and was elected member. In 1970 to 1975 he was president and leader of the PPA. During this period as senator he realised several projects, Two of which were the biggest in government construction. The airport Reina Beatrix and hospital Dr. H. Oduber. Thanks to the size of the airport and the way it was constructed it enable the landing of Boeing Airplanes on Aruba. This doubled the amount of tourist visits per year proving his part in the development of Aruba's tourism empire.

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He was a very generous and good hearted man, always ready to help others. He would give anyone in need his last piece of bread. With a sincerity of a monk, he would help out others; many speak of the good deeds he has done.

He was married twice and has 5 children all of which love and miss him dearly.

Source: Faceboook Virgilio Kock

